



INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA - UAW

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January 14, 2010

IN REPLY REFER TO

1757 N STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036
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Dear Representative:

Next week, the House is expected to vote on H.R. 2, legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The UAW has a long and proud history of advocating for health care for all Americans, and we strongly supported passage of the ACA. We urge you just as strongly to vote against this misguided legislation.

With enactment of the ACA, the nation started on a path that will provide health care coverage for 32 million Americans who are currently without health care insurance. The UAW believes that health care is a fundamental human right to which all Americans are entitled. Repeal of the ACA would once again condemn these Americans to live - - or die - - without health care coverage.

Repeal of the law would also invite a return of the unfair and life-threatening practices of insurance companies which, until recently, had the power to decide what care customers could receive, for example: to deny coverage to children with pre-existing conditions, to cancel coverage when people get critically ill, and to place limits on the necessary care people can receive.

Moreover, repealing the law would, according to a preliminary analysis of H.R. 2 by the Congressional Budget Office, increase the deficit by \$230 billion in the first decade and by over a trillion dollars in the second decade.

Without the Affordable Care Act, critical consumer protections would be lost, including:

- Over 1.2 million young adults would lose their insurance coverage through their parents' health plans.
- Over 165 million Americans with private insurance coverage would again find themselves subject to lifetime limits on how much insurance companies will spend on their health care.
- Insurance companies would once again be allowed to cut off patients' health coverage just when they most need it because of a simple error on an application, re-establishing one of the worst abuses of the insurance industry.
- New insurance plans would no longer be required to cover recommended preventive services, like mammograms and flu shots, without cost sharing, nor

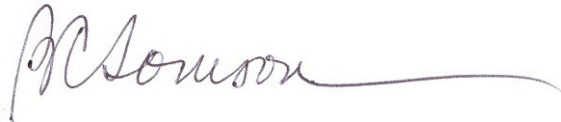
would they have to guarantee enrollees the right to choose any available primary care provider in the network or see an OB-GYN without a referral.

- Medicare would no longer pay for an annual check-up visit, forcing 44.1 million seniors with Medicare coverage would have to pay extra or forego life-saving regular check-ups.
- Over 2.7 million Medicare beneficiaries would once again fall into the prescription drug “donut hole” coverage gap, and lose their eligibility for a 50 percent discount on covered brand name prescription drugs in 2011.
- States would not have new resources to build a new, competitive, private health insurance marketplace to lower costs and greater protections for consumers.
- The nearly 5000 employers now receiving financial assistance to continue health care coverage for pre-Medicare retirees under the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program would lose their subsidies, jeopardizing coverage for millions of Americans.

The UAW believes that repeal of the Affordable Care Act would be a step backward, one with devastating consequences for individuals, our economy, businesses and government. We submit that, instead of repealing the ACA, Congress should be working to expedite its implementation in order to provide health care coverage to 32 million Americans as swiftly as possible. Instead of repealing the ACA, Congress should be working to strengthen and improve it.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to vote against repealing the Affordable Care Act. Thank you for considering our views on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, reading "Barbara Somson", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Barbara Somson
Legislative Director

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